7. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund (VCF) or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.

8. Information Technology Act, 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

Withdrawal of ITS officers from BSNL and MTNL

168. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the factual position about Government withdrawing ITS officers from BSNL and MTNL;

(b) the number of officers withdrawn and the justification behind this move;

(c) whether this move would help jeopardize the services of MTNL/ BSNL and help the private operators; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) On corporatisation of service providing functions of the Department of Telecommunications, officers working in Department of Telecom Services (DTS) and Department of Telecom Operations (DTO) were transferred to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) on deemed deputation basis. These officers were required to be given option for absorption in BSNL/MTNL or revert back to the Government. Accordingly about 3,97,000 employees belonging to Group B, C and D gave their respective option, and their absorption process (Group B in MTNL and Group B, C and D in BSNL) was completed by

2003-2004. The process of absorption of Group A officers (Numbering about 3000, including 2,200 ITS) commenced in March 2005. In order to seek their option, letter dated 24.03.2005 was issued. On expiry of the sanctioned term of deemed deputation on 15.10.2005 another letter dated 18.10.2005 was isued by the Department of Telecommunications regarding repatriation of all such Group A officers [of Indian Telecom Service (ITS) and other Services] who had either not exercised their option or had opted for Government service provided such officers were not covered by the interim stay orders granted by various courts.

About 1150 officers were thus reverted to Government.

This action has not affected the Telecom Services in the country. This is because alternative arrangements have been made by posting officers who have opted for BSNL/MTNL from Group A, B categories in Exchanges. These measures have been adequate for smooth functioning of telecom services.

A large number of cases filed by Group A officers of Indian Telecom Service (ITS) and other services individually and through their Associations challenging the letters dated 24.03.2005 and/or 18.10.2005 are pending adjudication by various Benches of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and High Courts. As on date, pending final disposal of cases, interim orders of various Benches of CAT and High Courts are in operation.

Thus, the subject-matter of absorption of Group A officers in BSNL/ MTNL and of repatriation of Group A officers of Indian Telecom Service (ITS) and other services pursuant to the letters dated 24.03.2005 and/or 18.10.2005 being under adjudication by the courts of law, is at present *sub-judice*.

Facilities to US based I.T. company

169. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether US based IT services company providing product development and market analytics services is planning to invest another $100 million in its operations in next 3-4 years in India;